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CLERK US DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DIST. OF TX FILEO

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 2013 AUG 15 AM | 1:31 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS DALLAS DIVISION

**SANDRA BURRUS** 

DEPUTY CLERK\_

VS.

3-13 CV3 217-1

DIVERSIFIED CONSULTANTS, INC.

## **COMPLAINT**

### **JURISDICTION**

1. The jurisdiction of this Court attains pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. §1681(p) ("FCRA") and the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692 ("FDCPA")

## **PARTIES**

- 2. Plaintiff, Saundra Burrus, is a natural person who resides in Texas and is a "consumer" as defined by 15. U.S.C. §1681a(c) of the FCRA and 15 U.S. C. §1692a(3). Plaintiff is a resident and citizen of the State of Texas.
- 3. Defendant, Diversified Consultants, Inc. is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Florida, registered to conduct business in Texas and may be served with process by serving its registered agent for service of process: InCorp Services, 815 Brazos Street, Suite 500, Austin, Texas 78701.\*

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 4. In June, 2014, Plaintiff began receiving phone calls from Defendant representatives attempting to collect a debt they claim was due Sprint.
- 5. On more than one phone call, the Defendant representative refused to state who she was and why she was calling.
- 6. When Plaintiff was finally told the purpose and subject of the call, Plaintiff explained that the debt had been previously settled. Defendant refused to verify or validate the debt.
  - 7. On or about mid-June 2013, Plaintiff sent a letter to Defendant, via certified mail,

return receipt requested.

- 8. No response being received from the letter, Plaintiff emailed their vice-president of compliance, Mavis Pye.
- 9. Plaintiff continued to call Defendant in an attempt to reach someone with authority to resolve the dispute.
- 10. Plaintiff was finally able to reach a supervisor by telephone, who listened to the tape of the conversation, agreed that the proper disclosures had not been made, apologized and stated she would speak to the collector involved.
- 11. Plaintiff took no further action regarding the matter until she learned the false debt was being reported by the Defendant on her credit report.
  - 12. Plaintiff sent a second letter to the Defendant, directed to Mavis Pye.
  - 13. Defendant's response was that she would remove it from Plaintiff's credit report.
- 14. Plaintiff disputed the inaccurate debt with each of the three credit reporting agencies.

  Upon information and belief, Defendant verified the debt.
- 15. As of the filing of this Complaint, the debt remains on Plaintiff's credit report. Plaintiff's employment is dependent upon maintaining a clear credit record.
  - 16. Further calls and emails have not resulted in the correction of Defendant's violations.
- 17. Despite the written dispute, the inaccurate debt continues to be reported on Plaintiff's credit report.
  - 18. Defendant refused to delete the account from Plaintiff's credit report.
- 19. The debt was not reported to the credit reporting agencies until after Mavis Pye acknowledged that the debt was paid prior to being placed for collection. Prior to that time, there was no report of this alleged debt on Plaintiff's credit report. Defendant placed it on the credit report with knowledge that it was a false report.

COMPLAINT 2

#### **CAUSES OF ACTION**

#### **COUNT I**

- 21. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 19 above as if fully set out herein.
- 22. Diversified Consultants, Inc. ("hereafter "DCI") violated the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C.§1681s-2(b) by publishing the DCI representation within Plaintiff's credit file with one or more credit reporting agencies, by failing to fully and properly investigate the Plaintiff's dispute of the DCI representation; by failing to review all relevant information regarding same; by failing to correctly report results of an accurate investigation to each credit reporting agency; and by failing to permanently and lawfully correct its own internal records to prevent the re-reporting of the DCI representations to the consumer reporting agencies.
- 23. As a result of this conduct, action and inaction of DCI the Plaintiff suffered damage by loss of credit, loss of the ability to purchase and benefit from credit, the mental and emotional pain and anguish and the humiliation and embarrassment of credit denials and the potential loss of employment.
- 24. DCI's conduct, action and inaction was willful, rendering it liable for actual or statutory and punitive damages in an amount to be determined by the Court pursuant to 15 U.S.C.§1681n. In the alternative, it was negligent, entitling the Plaintiff to recover actual damages under 15 U.S.C.§1681o.
- 25. The Plaintiff is entitled to recover costs and attorney fees from Credigy in an amount to be determined by the Court pursuant to 15 U.S.C.§1681n and §1681o.

## **COUNT II**

- 26. Defendant Credigy is a debt collector as defined by the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C.§1692a(6).
  - 27. The conduct described above constitutes clear violations of the Fair Debt Collection

COMPLAINT 3

Practices Act, 15 U.S.C.§1692 et seq and 1692e, by failing to set forth, in its written communications with Plaintiff, the statements and notices required 15 U.S.C.§1692g(a)(1)-(5).

- 28. Defendant DCI has violated 15 U.S. C.§1692g(a) by failing to, within 5 days of its initial communication with the debtor (phone call) send Plaintiff a written notice setting forth the requirements of 15 U.S.C.§1692g(1)-(5).
- 29. Defendant has violated 15 U.S.C.§1692e(2)(A) by falsely representing that Defendant owes the alleged debt..
- 30. Defendant has violated 15 U.S.C.§1692c(a)(3) by calling at a place of employment after being told calls were not allowed.
- 31. Defendant has violated 15 U.S.C. §1692d(6) by placing calls without disclosing his identity.
- 32. Defendant has violated 15 U.S.C. §1692e(8) by communicating known false information to a credit reporting agency and did not note the debt was disputed.
- 33. Defendant's actions outlined above were undertaken wilfully with the deliberate intention of inflicting injury upon Plaintiff and with knowledge of the probable results of its actions. In the alternative, Defendant's actions constituted reckless and heedless disregard of Plaintiff's rights, welfare, and personal well being and resulted from the conscious indifference of Defendant to Plaintiff's rights, welfare and safety.

## **COUNT III**

- 34. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 32 above.
- 35. The foregoing acts violate Tex. Fin. Code §392.202 by failing to correct their reporting to a credit bureau after knowing the report is inaccurate.
- 36. Defendant also violated §392.304(5) by failing to disclose a communication was from a debt collector
  - 37. The foregoing acts and omissions were undertaken on behalf of the Defendant by its

respective officers, agents, or employees acting at all times relevant hereto within the scope of that relationship.

- 38. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants were undertaken wilfully, intentionally, knowingly, and/or in gross disregard of the rights of the Plaintiff.
- 39. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendant were undertaken indiscriminately and persistently, as part of its regular and routine collection efforts, and without regard to or consideration or the identity of rights of the Plaintiff.
- 40. By reason of the allegations in this petition, the Texas Debt Collection Practices Act and Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, , Plaintiff is entitled to recover attorney's fees in a sum that is reasonable in relation to the amount of work expended for which Plaintiff sues herein. The attorney whose name is subscribed to this pleading has been employed to assist Plaintiff in the prosecution of this action.

## **Prayer for Relief**

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays that this Court:

- 1. Enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendant for statutory damages, actual damages, costs, and reasonable attorney fees as provided by 15 U.S.C.§1681n & o, 15 U.S.C.§1692k(a) and/or Tex. Fin.Code Ann. §392.403.
- 2. Grant such further relief as deemed just.
- 3. Pre and post-judgment interest as allowed by law.

TRIAL BY JURY IS DEMANDED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsu Censbell Sharon K. Campbell

State Bar # 03717600

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**COMPLAINT** 

JS 44 (Rev. 09/11)

# **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil coversheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet.

(SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PLACE OF THIS FORM)

the civil docket sheet. (SEE INS	STRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE	OF THIS FORM.)	MUNINAL				
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS	DEFENDANTS						
Saundra Burrus	Diversified (	Diversified Consultants, Inc.					
(b) Country of Residence	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant						
KICEL		(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)					
AUG 15	NOTE:						
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A	Attorne 3 1 3 CV 3 2 1 7 - L						
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X"	in One Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP (For Diversity Case		AL PARTIES	Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff) and One Box for Defendant)	
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	■ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)		Citizen of This State	PTF DEF PTF DEF			
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh	p of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State		Incorporated and Proof Business In A		
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<b>3 3</b>	Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT							
CONTRACT	1	RTS	FORFEITURE/PEN		NKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine	PERSONAL INJURY  310 Airplane	PERSONAL INJUR	, ,	* 1	peal 28 USC 158	☐ 375 False Claims Act	
130 Miller Act	315 Airplane Product	365 Personal Injury - Product Liability			ndrawal USC 157	☐ 400 State Reapportionment ☐ 410 Antitrust	
☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability	367 Health Care/	2000		350 157	☐ 430 Banks and Banking	
☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	☐ 320 Assault, Libel &	Pharmaceutical			RTY RIGHTS	☐ 450 Commerce	
& Enforcement of Judgment  151 Medicare Act	Slander  ☐ 330 Federal Employers'	Personal Injury Product Liability		☐ 820 Cop ☐ 830 Pate		☐ 460 Deportation ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and	
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted	Liability	☐ 368 Asbestos Persona		□ 840 Trac		Corrupt Organizations	
Student Loans	☐ 340 Marine	Injury Product				☐ 480 Consumer Credit	
(Excl. Veterans)	☐ 345 Marine Product	Liability	LABOR		L SECURITY	☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV	
☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	Liability  ☐ 350 Motor Vehicle	PERSONAL PROPER  370 Other Fraud	RTY 710 Fair Labor Stand Act		A (1395ff) ck Lung (923)	850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange	
☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle	371 Truth in Lending			VC/DIWW (405(g))	■ 890 Other Statutory Actions	
☐ 190 Other Contract	Product Liability	380 Other Personal	☐ 740 Railway Labor A	ct 🗖 864 SSI	D Title XVI	☐ 891 Agricultural Acts	
☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise	☐ 360 Other Personal Injury	Property Damage		cal 🗖 865 RSI	(405(g))	893 Environmental Matters	
170 Hanchise	362 Personal Injury -	385 Property Damage Product Liability	Leave Act 790 Other Labor Litis	pation		☐ 895 Freedom of Information Act	
	Med. Malpractice		☐ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc.	,		☐ 896 Arbitration	
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIO			RAL TAX SUITS	☐ 899 Administrative Procedure	
☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 220 Foreclosure	440 Other Civil Rights	510 Motions to Vacat	e		es (U.S. Plaintiff	Act/Review or Appeal of	
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	☐ 441 Voting ☐ 442 Employment	Sentence Habeas Corpus:			Defendant) —Third Party	Agency Decision  950 Constitutionality of	
240 Torts to Land	☐ 443 Housing/	530 General			USC 7609	State Statutes	
245 Tort Product Liability	Accommodations	☐ 535 Death Penalty	IMMIGRATIO				
290 All Other Real Property	U 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment	540 Mandamus & Otl	ner 462 Naturalization Ap 463 Habeas Corpus -	pplication			
	☐ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities -	555 Prison Condition					
	Other	560 Civil Detainee -	(Prisoner Petition	' I			
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	1 15 H S C 1602k	and 15 U.S.C. 168	1				
	Brief description of ca	ause: vn false debt on cre	edit report				
VII. REQUESTED IN CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23			N DEMAND \$	DEMAND S CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:  JURY DEMAND: X Yes  No			
VIII. RELATED CASI PENDING OR CLOS	(Can innot mentional)	JUDGE	$\bigcap$	DOCK	ET NUMBER		
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